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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2356

March 31, 1988

## MORE WHEAT TO USSR

On March 25, private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the export sales of 350,000 metric tons of hard red winter wheat for delivery to the winter wheat for delivery to the USSR during the 1987-88 marketing year and under the fifth year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the fifth year of the agreement which ends Sept. 30, total 11,317,000 tons. Of this amount, wheat is 7,344,900 tons, and corn is 3,972,100 tons.

## WHEAT FORECAST

The U.S. wheat and wheat products export forecast for 1987/88 remains unchanged from the February estimate, at 42 million 200 thousand tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As of March 10, wheat shipments totaled 37 million 800 thousand tons, compared to 23 million 500 thousand at the same time last year. The leading buyers were USSR, China, Japan and Poland.

## PORK FROM TAIWAN TO JAPAN

Japanese importers reportedly have stopped purchasing pork products from Taiwan following the discovery of sulfanilamide residues in almost 4½ tons of pork imported from Taiwan on March 14. Japan's Ministry of Health and Welfare will begin inspecting all pork imports from Taiwan for sulfa residues, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is not believed, however, that this problem will remain unresolved long enough to cause lasting trade effects which might significantly benefit U.S. pork exporters.

## PAKISTAN WHEAT IMPORTS

Pakistan's wheat import demand may be a significant factor in the 1988/89 world trade and a large potential market for U.S. wheat, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With indications of a second consecutive poor crop, import needs could approximate 2 million tons, up sharply from the 1987/88 import estimate of 370,000 tons. In the past, the U.S. has supplies about half of Pakistan's wheat import needs of soft white wheat.

## U.S. WHEAT TO NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand, which has not imported wheat from the U.S. in 15 years, may be interested U.S. wheat imports this year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Expected crop shortfalls for 1988 and possible lower wheat quality have resulted in inquiries about U.S. wheat exports. Though Australian wheat usually fulfills New Zealand import demand, interest in consistent, milling-quality wheat may provide the U.S. with a competitive edge this year.

U.S. CORN  
EXPORT  
FORECAST

The U.S. corn export forecast for 1987/88 remains unchanged at 43 million 200 thousand tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Corn shipments and sales for the current marketing year, 1987/88, totaled 32 million 100 thousand tons as of March 10. This is 6 million 800 thousand tons higher than at the same time last year. The leading buyers were: USSR, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Iraq and Algeria.

LESS CORN IN  
THAILAND

In March, Thailand's corn export forecast was reduced to 850,000 tons, only 30 percent of last year's exports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The reduction in exports is due to a smaller crop and by a soaring 197-percent increase in domestic consumption over the past 10 years. If corn consumption continues to grow at the tremendous average rate of 20 percent per year, while production gains only 10 percent, Thailand's place as a major U.S. competitor in corn trade might be diminished.

RED MEAT  
PRODUCTION  
UP

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. in February 1988 totaled 3 billion 70 million pounds, up 7 percent from February of last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Beef production, at 1 billion 830 million pounds, was up 5 percent from last year. Pork production, at 1 billion 180 million pounds, was up 11 percent. Veal production, at 32 million pounds, was down 9 percent.

TAIWAN FARMERS  
PROTEST U.S.  
BIRDS

Protests continue in Taiwan over the recent upsurge in U.S. turkey exports to Taiwan, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S. exported 770 tons of turkey to Taiwan in the first two months of 1988, well above last year's levels. Taiwan farmers claim that turkey imports from the U.S. have seriously depressed poultry prices in Taiwan. Taiwan agreed to begin reissuing turkey import licenses starting in May. Turkey imports from the U.S. were banned in February.

PORUGAL &  
U.S. WHEAT  
IMPORTS

The United States, in recent past, was virtually the only supplier of wheat to Portugal, due in part to their past need for CCC credit to help finance purchases. However, as a result of the integration of Portugal into the European Community, Portugal will begin privatization of the wheat imports by the end of 1988, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. CCC credit is no longer needed, and Portugal is now able to purchase wheat from the cheapest source. In 1986/87, Canada and Saudi Arabia became the leading suppliers.

CATTLE PRODUCER  
REFERENDUM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced procedures for a referendum among cattle producers and cattle and beef importers to determine if the beef promotion program authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 will continue. In all states except West Virginia, the referendum will be on May 10. In West Virginia, it's on May 9. Registration and voting will take place at State Extension Service county offices. All cattle producers or those who imported cattle, beef, or beef products between Oct. 1, 1986, and March 31, 1988, will be entitled to vote in the referendum.

THE SEAPORTS  
CONNECTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of International Cooperation and Development has invited Atlantic and Gulf states port officials to describe the services they provide for handling agricultural commodities at The Seaports Connection conference, May 20-22, at the Hotel Ritz Carlton, Atlanta, Georgia. Shippers, including producers, brokers, exporters and importers from the U.S., Caribbean Basin and Latin American countries will be advised on how to evaluate and select the ports of entry which best suit their needs. For more information, contact Mary Quinlan, OICD/PSR, Room 342 McGregor Building, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C. 20250-4300. Phone: 202-653-7873.

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA #1609...** (Weekly 13½ min documentary) Is there a relationship between diet and cancer? On this edition of **AGRICULTURE USA** Brenda Curtis talk to University of Maryland Extension nutritionist Dr. Mark Kantor about the latest studies linking diet and cancer prevention.

**AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1597...** (Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Good-bye boll weevil; USDA extends 1984, 1985 and 1986 corn and sorghum loans; USDA announces public comment period for Resource Conservation Act program; Carbon dioxide and crop growth.

**CONSUMER TIME #1089...** (Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Starting a garden; Preparing the soil for seeds; Selecting seeds for your garden; the relationship of diet and cancer; Weird but true, stories.

**USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...** Tues. Apr. 5. Weekly weather and crop outlook; Dairy products outlook; Mon. Apr. 11. U.S. crop production report; Soviet grain outlook; World supply and demand; Tues. Apr. 12. Weekly weather and crop outlook; World ag. outlook and Grain production report; World oilseed situation; World cotton situation. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

TELEVISION SERVICE programs, **A BETTER WAY**, **DOWN TO EARTH**, **AGRICULTURAL UPDATE** and **SATELLITE NEWS** are available on satellite Westar IV, audio 6-2 or 6-8 as follows:

Thursdays... AG UPDATE/SATELLITE NEWS. 7:30-7:45 p.m. ET Transponder 12D

Saturdays... **A BETTER WAY**, 10:00-10:30 a.m. ET Transponder 9X  
ORIGINAL **DOWN TO EARTH**, 10:30-11:00 a.m. ET Transponder 9X  
UPLINK **SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE**, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET Transponder 9X

Mondays... **A BETTER WAY**, 8:00-8:30 a.m. ET Transponder 12D  
REPEAT **DOWN TO EARTH**, 8:30-9:00 a.m. ET Transponder 12D  
UPLINK **SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE**, 9:00-9:15 a.m. ET Transponder 12D

**A BETTER WAY** is also available on The Learning Channel SATCOM 3R, Transponder 2, Audio 6-8 each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. ET.

OFF MIKE

First off, a very personal comment or two. This will be my last Off Mike column, and I'd like to use the personal pronoun for just a moment instead of the impersonal, editorial "we." Mostly, I want to thank you for helping to make work here at the U.S. Department of Agriculture such a great experience. I've made many, many friends...and these I will not lose when I leave. I've enjoyed the professionalism, creativity and hard work I've seen, both within my own organization and out in the industry. Those who attended my retirement party last week heard and saw some of that creativity. Gary Crawford and Dave Carter (with some help and a lot of good sportsmanship on the part of Brenda Curtis-Heiken) put on a show, both on tape and in person, that was incredible and delightful. Your NAFB president Dix Harper (WRAL-TV/Tobacco Net, Raleigh, NC) was there to present an official good-by from NAFB. Orion Samuelson (WGN, Chicago, IL) delayed his return to Chicago to be able to stop by. And a whole lot of others did, too, including Sec'y of Ag Richard Lyng and Dep Sec'y Peter Myers.

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All in all it was a great party, and my thanks to all who helped make it so. Wade Wagner (KGAN-TV, Cedar Rapids, IA) leaves for Brazil, April 2 and will be back in the office, April 18. He's visiting the country's soybean and ethanol fuel industries and will produce a TV documentary when he returns. If you're interested in his videotape footage, let him know. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Max and Linda Armstrong (WGN, Chicago). They lost their newly born baby boy. The baby, named Grant Stevens was born critically ill and died four days after he was born. Margaret Desatnik will be sitting in this chair beginning April 4 as acting chief. Call her if you need help.



JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division